

# Background Knowledge



## Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917

**SA/A/D/SD Continuum** Before reading about the United States becoming a world power, think about your reactions to each of the following statements. The statements are intended to cause a reaction because some people may have strong feelings about them. Think about what you already know about the rise of the United States as a world power. Select “SA” (Strongly Agree), “A” (Agree), “D” (Disagree), or “SD” (Strongly Disagree) for each statement. There are no right or wrong answers.

**1. The United States must establish military bases overseas to protect its national interests.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**2. The increased influence of the United States in the Pacific and Latin America was good for those regions.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**3. The United States should not have become involved in the Spanish-American War.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**4. Under no circumstances should one nation rule another without the consent of its people.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**5. All nations should be free to trade openly with all other nations.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**6. The United States should intervene in other nation’s affairs when necessary to maintain economic and political stability in the Western Hemisphere.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

**7. The United States should not try to promote stable, democratic foreign governments with force.**

SA-----A-----D-----SD

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## Activating Background Knowledge

Write several sentences about what you know about how the United States became a world power, including the reasons the United States became more involved in world affairs and the effects of its involvement.

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# Background Knowledge *Cont.*

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